

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Thursday, May 13. to Saturday, May 15. 1714.

The Application of the former Mercators.

The Cheat of drawing Schemes from the Custom-house exposed.

This way of Deceiving, the worst sort of Lying.

The ill Language and ill Manners of the Opposers consider'd.

All the Lyes and Villains and Miscreants they have called others, and publish'd, now exposed.

It all returns on themselves.

The Mercator may find a time to treat them as they deserve.

But scorns to do it as an Argument.

THE *MERCATOR* has so long, and so effectually inculcated the Knavery and Forgery of the Foreigners, and Tools of Foreigners, who have opposed the Treaty of Commerce, that little more remains to be said of that kind: Worse than they are they cannot be made to look, and they are so harden'd in their Insolence, that to talk to them, or expect to convince them is Fruitless and lost Labour.

They have given Schemes and Drafts of the Trade to France, to what purpose they best know, either they would have them be believed or they would not; why did they publish such Schemes if they would not have them be believed? And if they published them to be believed, then the Knavery is palpable, because they knew them to be imperfect, and that it was not possible that any Account from the Custom-house could give an Account of the Trade.

In all Matters of this Nature, an attempt to impose upon us in one thing, gives Ground to suspect a design to impose upon us in another; and it is no Injury done to these Men to say they could not do this without a Design, because, as they knew when they did it, that it was a false Foundation; so they directed the Cheat in such a manner, and improved it to such a highth among our Parties, as to make it answer the Devilish Contrivance they had in Hand, (viz.) of enflaming and enraging the People on the occasion of the Bill of Commerce.

What must the People of Great Britain think of these People, when they shall see how they have been imposed upon by false Schemes instead of true, imperfect Schemes for full Schemes, of a part of the Trade for Schemes of THE TRADE, that is of the whole Trade? Will they not justly reproach them with ha-

ving deluded and defrauded them, imposed upon, and deceived them? Will they not lay all the Consequences of these Delusions upon them, and tell them, that they, the Scheme-makers have been the Cause of all the unjust Clamour they, the *Manufacturers*, have made against the Government, and of all the Reproaches they have cast upon the Ministry? That these Men told them, the Balance of the French Trade was against us, and gave them Accounts to prove it, which Accounts they called a State of the Trade, and Schemes of THE Exportations and Importations between England and France; whereas now it appears, that in Truth they were full Accounts of the Importations from France; for all our Goods from France, which were Enter'd at all, were Enter'd as from France, time of War excepted, as shall appear by it self. But as to our Exportations, those Accounts were,

First, Wrong done, as they were, as has been already proved, great Quantities of the Goods really Exported, being concealed.

Secondly, Wrong in themselves, they being in reality Accounts of but part of our Exportations to France, but by the unparallel'd Impudence of a foreign Scribbler and an ignorant Tool, hired to say what they put into his Mouth, are cram'd down the Throats of our People as authentick and compleat Accounts, and then to make them operate upon the Passions of the Party they are back'd by this Writer, with a great and continued Stream of heavy dull Railery and foul Language, as if the Noise he had made must needs persuade, and that the People should believe that they could not have the Face to Triumph thus, and Bully every one they spoke of in Print, if they were not the right.

They gave the LYE on every occasion, called Men that calmly and quietly gave their Opinions of Things, Villain

Villains and Miscreants, insulted Men in Print, to whom they would hardly have said such Words Face to Face, and with all manner of Buffoonry and Indecency carry'd on their Writings, as if neither the Laws of God or Man were of any Force with them.

They pursued this with personal Rage and personal Malice, and made the Difference in an Opinion about Commerce, a Handle to fall upon those they Opposed, with Slanders, forged Accusations and suggested Crimes; from thence they proceeded to malicious and injurious, assaulting Men in their private Affairs, and endeavouring to bring them into Troubles and Disasters from their personal Enemies, reproaching them who they could no otherwise reach with their private Misfortunes, and charging them with private Crimes which they had no Ground for, or Proof of, and every thing that is Unmanly and Ungenerous has been done of this kind to support their Clamour against the Treaty of Commerce, as if this, with wise Men would not make their Case the worse, and as if Men would not rationally conclude, sure this Man is hard press'd in the Argument he is upon, else he would never leave the Disputes thus and fall upon the Person. For what's all this to the Argument?

This has been the Conduct of our Trade Preservers; and now the true Reason of it all appears; Now the Cheat and the Lye, and all those opprobrious Words which they have given to the *MERCATOR*, like a Man spitting against the Sun, fly back in their own faces. The foreign Knight, the ignorant Lawyer, and their yet more ignorant abettor, are the Men who Challenge all those handsome Titles of Honour.

These are the Men who have Deluded the Nation, Imposed upon their Country, Enflamed the People, and raised even a Sedition among our poor Tradesmen, against settling the Commerce; and how have they done it, but by false and imperfect Accounts for true; pretending to call this, and that, and the other, an Account of our Trade with France; and then to draw a Ballance of the Commerce their own way, and to their own purposes? And when all is done, the Custom-house Books not being able to give a full Account of those Exportations, no just Ballance can be produced, no fair Estimate can be made of the Trade by those Accounts.

What can these Men say for themselves? What can they plead? They have long held it out, and with faces inimitably bold against all that has been said, or could be said. But now it stares in their faces; the Practice discovers them; the daily Trade is a demonstration which they can never withstand; Ships go every Day to France laden with all sorts of English Woollen Manufactures, and yet none of those Goods or Ships are Entered in the Custom-house for France. How then can these Men have the face to tell us, the Custom-house Books give an Account of the Trade? And with what a Corinthian Countenance can they print Schemes, and draw Ballances between our Exportations and Importations?

Now they are all sunk in the Dirt of their own scandalous Design, it is apparent: Now they were published to deceive, with a hope, that the Trick of it would never be discovered. But Crime and Shame follow one another; and these Men are exposed now in the meer Consequence of their own Wickedness.

If it was useful to them by these Frauds, tho' of a short duration, to Impose upon and Delude the People

of Britain; if they found their Advantage and Account in the putting a false Gloss and a fraudulent Outside upon this part of our Commerce, and that so much worth their while as to Mortgage their Consciences upon it, and act against known Truth, which must be to act against Principle, if they had any, much more must it be worth our Readers, the *Manufacturers of Britain*: While to have these Cheats exposed, these Frauds detected, and the World made ashamed of the Authors; for the *MERCATOR* will not be afraid of their Names in its proper time and place, and may live to repay them, with Interest, the Personal attacks upon Character, Reputation and private Affairs, but not as a help to Arguments, as they have done. That's a Method abhor'd by Honest Men, needless with those who have Truth on their side, and only practised by, or wanting to our pretended *BRITISH MERCHANTS*, who impose Shams and Delusions upon the People, on pretence of *Preserving* their Commerce, and then support them by Personal Slanders and Personal Malice, which neither hurt nor concern those they are pointed. For,

Conscia mens recti fama mendacia ridet.

From the Custom-House.

Exported to France in Five Days,
May 5. to May 11.

25	Long Cloths
22	Spanish Cloths
8	Yorkshire Cloths
7	Kerfies
10 lb.	Woollen Cloth
163	Stuffs and Druggets
25 dozen	Woasted Hose
45 lb.	Hose Silk
30 dozen	Gloves
20 dozen	Calveskins
4398 lb.	Leather
15 C.	Wrought Iron
56 lb.	Wrought Brass
63 lb.	Hatbardshery
12 lb.	Sealing Wax
56 lb.	Confectionary
11 Ton	11 C. Allom
2 Ton	7 C. Block Tin
29 Fodder	1 C. Lead
16 Ton	7 C. Red Lead
3 Ton	2 C. Gauls
8 Ton	13 C. Logwood
1 Ton	1 C. Pewter
8 Ton	1 C. Kids Hair
12 C.	Nicoraga Wood
* 3 Ton	18 C. Brown Sugar
16 C.	Currants
* 2982 lb	Pimento
6000	Lanthorne Leaves
850 lb	Mohair Yarn
200 lb	Tortoishe
9 Gallons	Citron Water
1300	Glass Bottles
86150 lb	Virginia Tobacco
120 quarter	Wheat
100 quarter	Barly
400 quarter	Rye